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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota National Guard units receive notification for training

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and 147th Forward Support Company received notification for training Monday, Dec. 17, in preparation for possible mobilization and deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The notification does not constitute an official alert or mobilization as the decision to deploy has not occurred. When a final decision is made, official alert and mobilization orders will be published by the South Dakota National Guard.

The purpose of the notification is to provide units with adequate time for training prior to possible mobilization.

If deployed, the South Dakota Army National Guard units will mobilize more than 460 Soldiers in the summer of 2009 to conduct a security force mission in Iraq. This mission will not be the traditional mission of the field artillery unit, which is to provide high-mobility automatic systems capable of delivering precision counter fire and suppression of enemy air defenses, light materiel, and personnel targets at ranges from 15 to more than 300 kilometers.

This notification for training does not affect the members of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, who are currently at Camp Shelby, Miss., preparing for deployment to Iraq where the unit will conduct a security force mission with a primary focus on convoy escort throughout the region. The members of Bravo Battery who are not currently mobilized have received this recent notification for training.

The notification for training of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and the 147th Forward Support Company supports the Army Force Generation Model that directly supports the Army's new force structure and is designed to achieve a sustained, more predictable posture to generate trained and ready forces. The model is designed so National Guard and Reserve forces can expect to deploy for up to a year once every five years. This new model will bring more predictability to Soldiers, their families and their employers.

Units and Locations

- Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Watertown and Sisseton.
- Battery A, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Aberdeen.
- Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Salem and Sioux Falls.
- Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is located in Yankton.
- 147th Forward Support Company is located in Mitchell, Sioux Falls and Webster.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 700 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

More than 150 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are serving in a non-active duty status in South Dakota and continue to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.

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